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INAUGURAL ESSAY

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COLIC:

FOR THE DEGREE

OF

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

1828

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

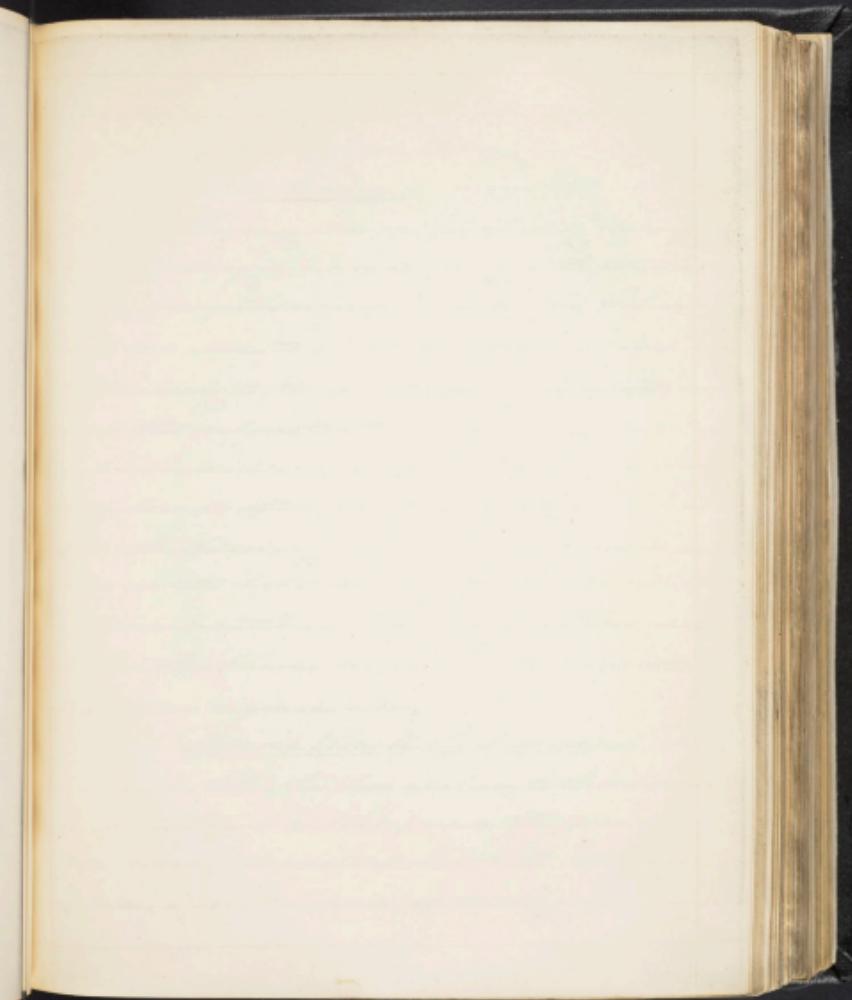
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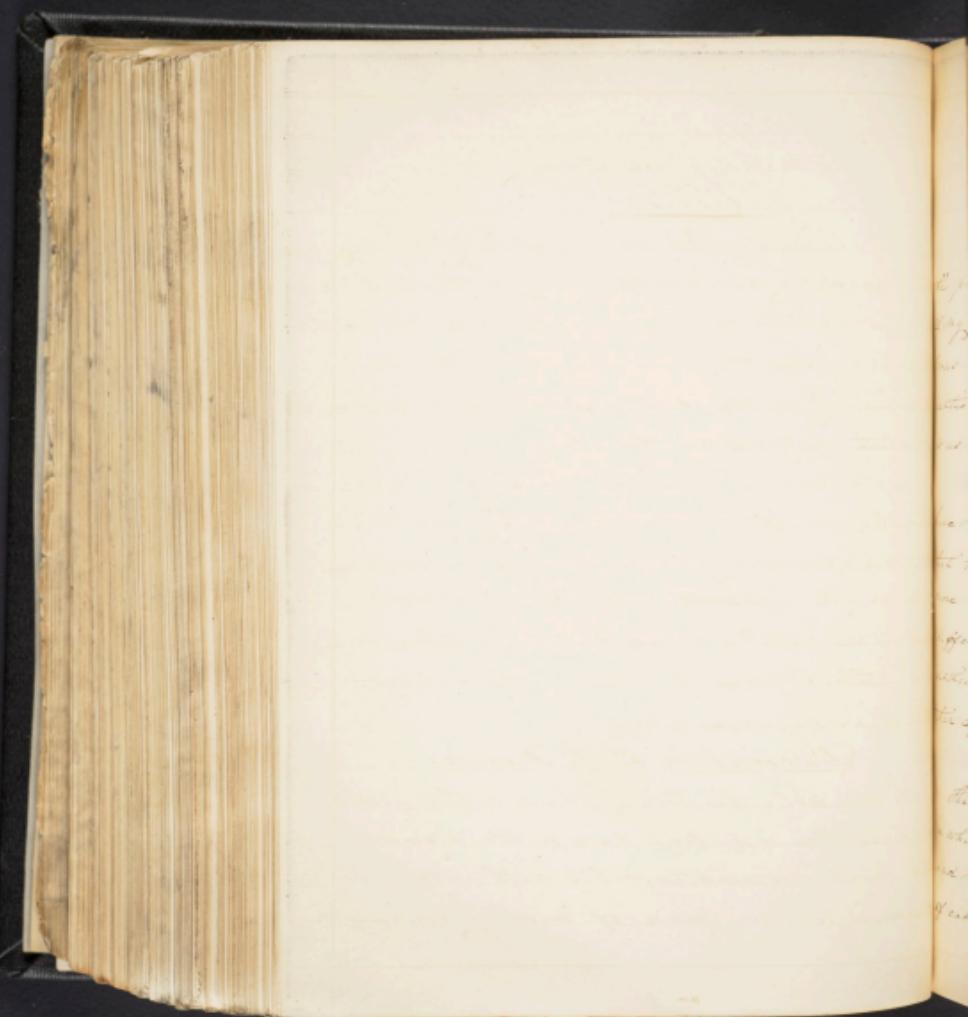
GEORGE FOX Jr.

OF

PENNSYLVANIA.







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the Surgical Essay

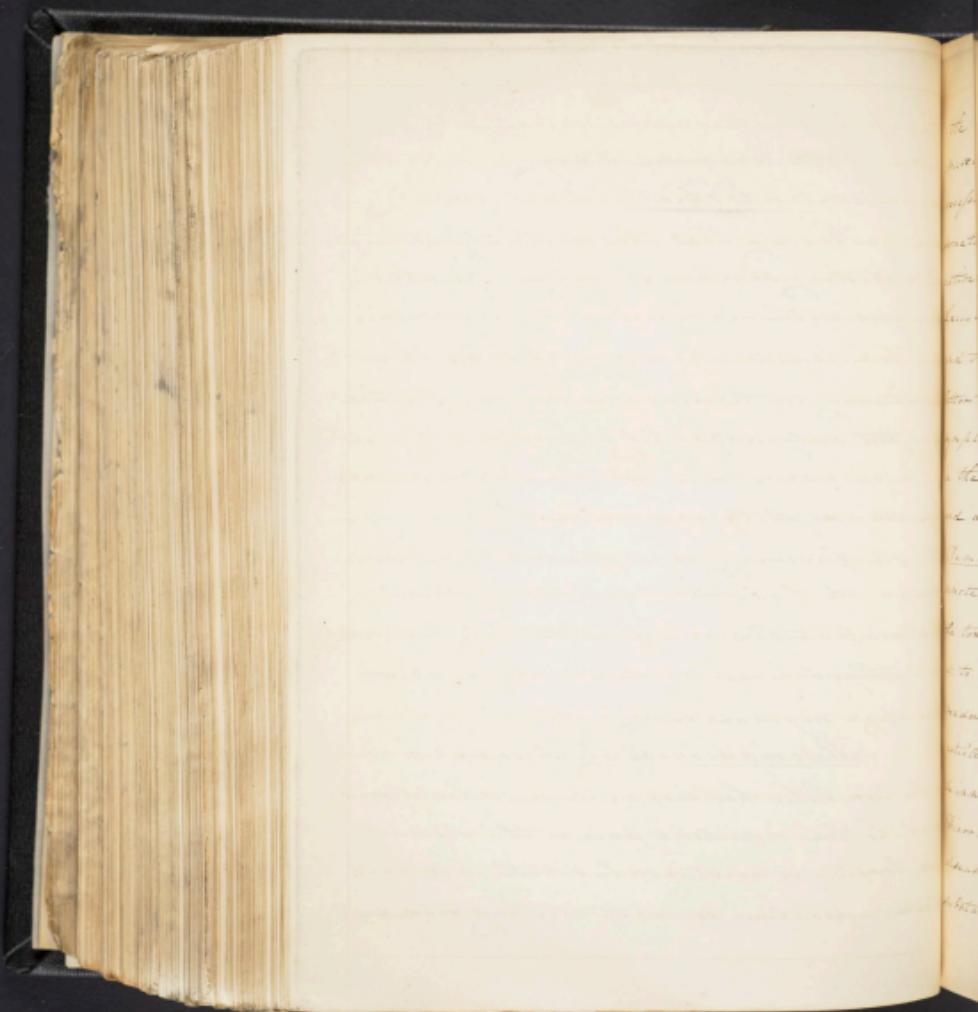
Colic

Having had an opportunity during the preceding summer of seeing in the practice of my physician several cases of acute Colic. I was induced to direct my attention more particularly to the disease, and have selected it as the subject of this essay.

The articles and treatises of Colic have been so often and accurately described that the following pages must be considered more in the light of a compilation from different authors and from the lectures and instructions I have received on the subject than of an original essay.

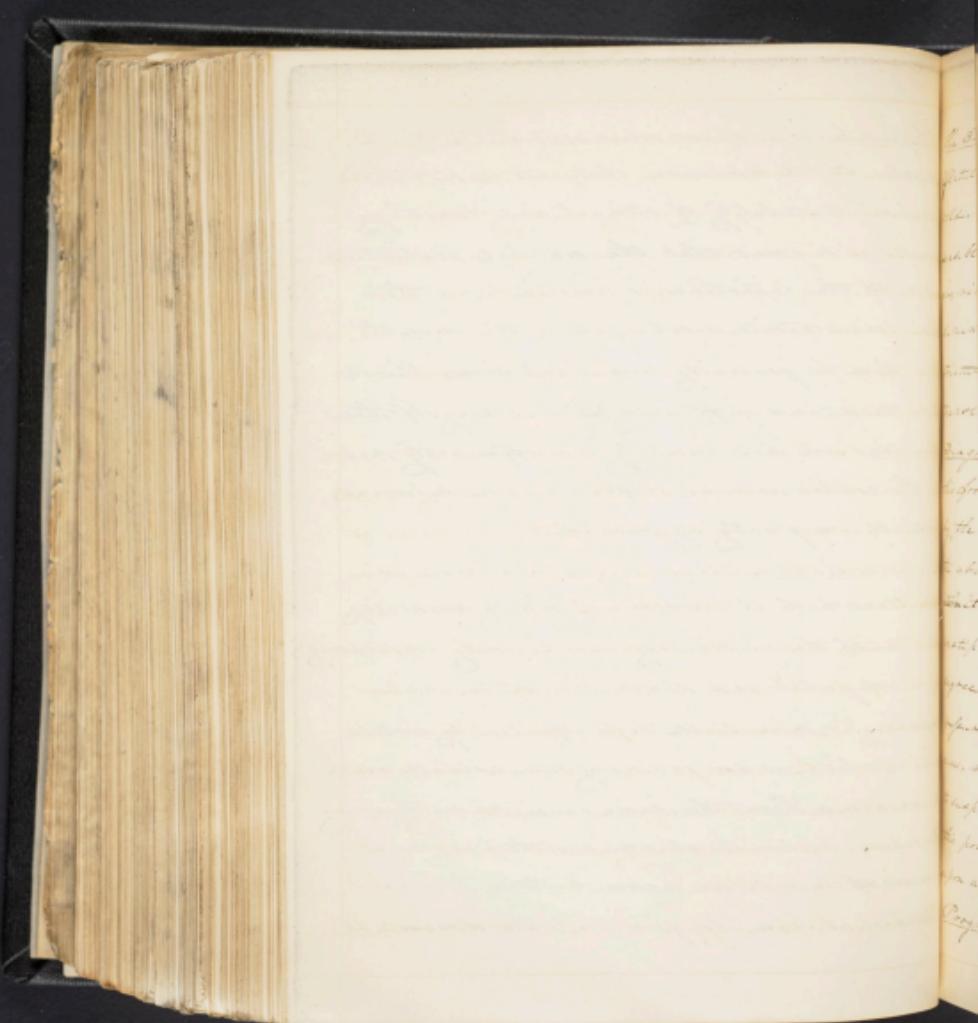
Description of the Disease

The term Colic has been applied to the disease in which there is violent pain in the stomach and bowels, not constant, but with intervals of ease, a peculiar sense of twisting round



the umbilicus, spasmodic contractions of the muscles of the abdomen, hiccup, constipation, & excessive irritability of stomach, and vomiting sometimes so great that the natural peristaltic action of the intestines is arrested and their flaccid state enlarged by the mouth; and there is generally pain or less severe throbbing, belching and difficulty of breathing. ^D Other symptoms are not, ^D promptly and effectually met in the commencement, inflammation subsides, and all are greatly aggravated.

Remote Causes. Pleat may be mentioned as a remote cause of this disease, it acts by weakening the tone of the alimentary canal, thereby rendering it, to irregular and spasmodic action, and rendering it more liable to be affected by certain irritants, which, under ordinary circumstances would be innocuous. From the same cause, we see Diaper, Diarrhoea, Colic, & &c. &c. are the prevalent diseases of the human system. Certain poisons and substances at least, also give rise to the disease.



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The Gastric Crises are various, as Vompe ^{and} Diarrhoea
flatulent vegetative, and indigestible substances
solid, which acts by, ^{and} dry scratching the peritoneum
soluble or ascorbable, as by exposure to cold ^{and} dry
air violent ^{and} sharp pains in affections of the viscera,
diminished ^{and} capacity of the stomach and intestines
obstruction of the rectum or hernia and varicose
stricture of the rectum or hernia and varicose
stricture of the rectum or hernia and varicose
stricture of the rectum or hernia and varicose

Diagnosis. It is in most instances easy to distinguish
this from other diseases of the alimentary canal
by the spasmodic contraction of the muscles of
the abdomen, the severe and periodical distressing
intermittent pains in the stomach and intestines, the
constipation, and in the commencement the slight
degree of fever, and diminution of faeces upon
preparation. So is however a safe peculiarities in all
cases, when the constipation continues obstructed
to suspect hernia and varicose particularly on
this point, and should any doubt exist, insist
upon an examination.

Prognosis. In forming an opinion, as to the probable



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size of the ulcer, the use to be made of the anæsthetic
salve and continuation of the symptoms presented by
the age and preceding state of the patient's health
will on some occasions effect a relaxation of spasm,
subsidence of pain and vomiting, diminution of
fever and restoration of the natural peristaltic
action of the intestines, accompanied with a free
excretion of their contents, no prograid will be
favourable; on the contrary, where the bowel continues
obstinately constipated, with increase of pain, fever
and other symptoms indicative of inflammation,
where there is vomiting of tenacious matter, or
where the patient is old and infirm or infested by
previous disease, it will be more unfeavourable. If
after 24 hours, repeated enemata are given for
several days, there should be sudden cessation of
pain, with a continuation of constipation, a weak
triumphant pulse, with skin very livid, the strong
conclusion that mortification has taken place
and all our efforts to save our patient will
be vain.

old:

5.

Description After post mortem examination, the following appearances have been observed, symmetric contraction of some, more or less of the abdominal muscles irritated by glutinous material, the inflammation of the surface of the intestines, and where this has been great, coagulable blood has been thrown out which is found applying the intestines to each other, thickly presenting their irritating action, and affording an obvious cause for the abdominal inflammation, which has been so prominently displayed, also showing the inability of no means to overcome it, where such a state exists.

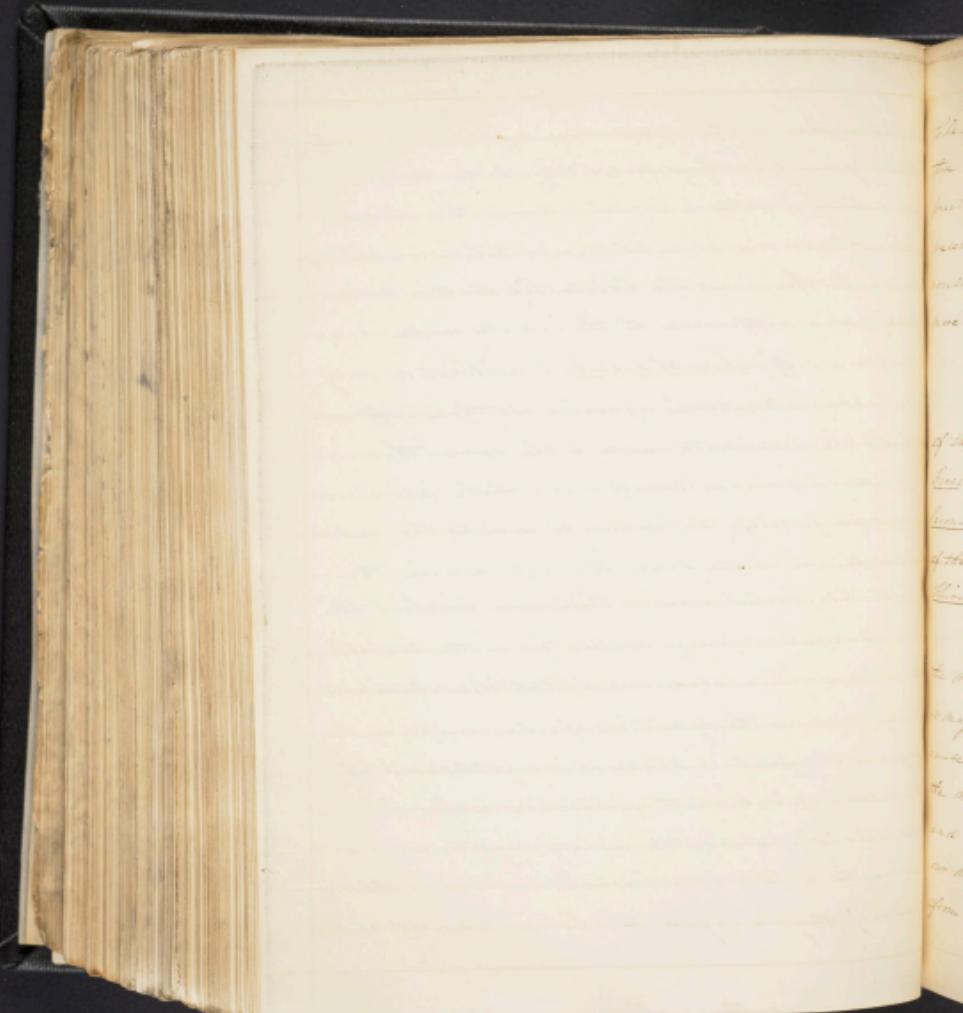
Pathology From the preceding description, it may be perceived, that we consider this disease generally originating from excessive heat generated, the stimulus being, that heat of the bowels it more easily affected by certain articles of diet that cause a symmetric contraction of some part of it, affecting the abdominal muscles producing irritation exciting the glutinous material to coagulate, and this glutinous material soon becomes surrounded by inflammation and its consequences.



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When lead is the cause, it is supposed to act by
destroying the nervous sensibility of the stomach.

Most practical writers divide this disease
into different species, as Flatulent, Bilious, and Flatulent-
Colic. On this point the celebrated Cullen remarks
"so far as a difference of the remote cause con-
stitutes a difference of disease, a distinction may
probably be admitted" again, "in all these different
species the proximate cause is the same, that is
a flatulencies constriction of a part of the intestine
and consequently that in all these cases the indica-
tion of cure is the same, that is, to remove the
constriction mentioned;" in these cases in which the
disease depends upon an obstruction in the intestines
he continues, "I am persuaded that the obstructions
do not produce the symptoms of colic, excepting so
far as they produce spasmodic constrictions of
the intestine." It is not an intention to discredit
such disease, but if the disease is genuine, he
believes the urgent symptoms to be alike in each,
differing only in degree, the indications of cure



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The similar but the measures adapted to fight
time are necessarily different, as varies the
practitioner should adapt his remedies to the age, the
period and the state of the system, where will
would be affected, as would not resort to the
more active

Treatment

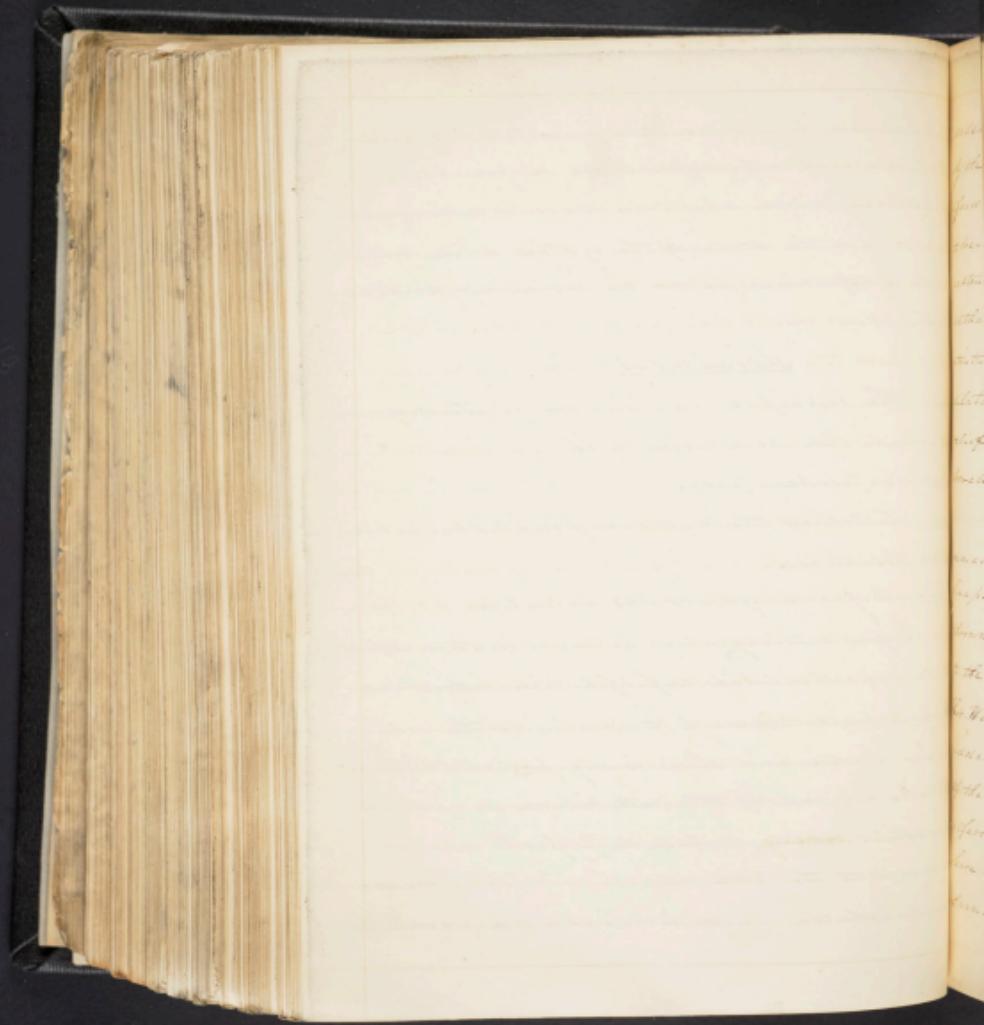
The principal indications in the case
of this disease are conceive to be,

First. To remove Spasms.

Second. To restrain the natural penitentia action
of the intestines.

Third. To guard against Inflammation.

Before entering upon the consideration of
the means calculated to fulfil these indications
it may be proper to remark, that whenever the exciting
cause is known, and this is say, probability that
the more remote of this will before ^Pthe patient
and effect a cure, it will be proper to adapt
our means to this end alone. When it arises
from translated gout, or rheumatism, we should



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calculated to bring back the disease to the action of the air & simpsons. Whether the opium in pastille form in the large intestine, it has been advised, to bind them up with a crop or some similar instrument, and to follow this operation of a mild cathartick at Easter etc, and by injection & slow引き of the action is the cause, gradual administration of purges has overcome this, and affords relief at the same time, we observe that the removal of the pastille

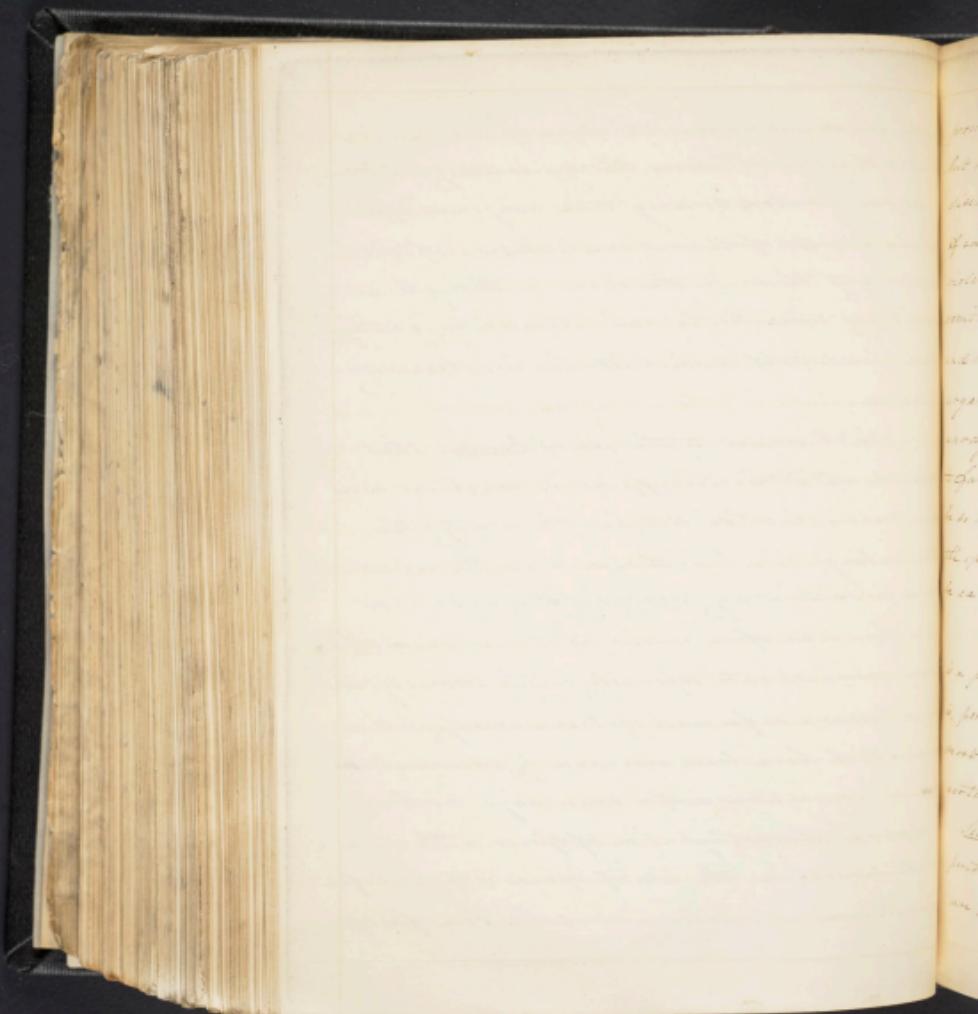
Sophistic and hot induration, various remedies have been resorted to, as opium, benedictins, simpsons, &c &c &c, the Warm Bath, cold water drawn in the abdomen or rectum, fomentations to the epigastric region, glycerine being put in the water or hot boudy to which is frequently added Mustard, or Cinnamon Cypres and Cinnamon, of the latter the cold water is said to have been a favorite remedy of the late Dr. Lind and to have succeeded, where others had failed, though Dr. Lind in highly recommended and frequently



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used in some instances as a cure of Habitues
Tonic Oatmeal, or Tobacco has however, the latter
is seldom resorted to, owing to the dangerous effects
which are always attendant with it; it is often
necessary to throw up the same to thorough an
exhaustion under Medicinal direction by exciting
long a quantity of mucus which has also been con-
sidered.

With respect to the use of Opium, the
remarks of Dr. Cullen appear to me well made
appropriate, but, I will take the liberty of
transcribing them. In all cases where the cold
comes on without any previous rattlings, and
arises from cold, from passions of the mind, or other
causes, which operate especially on the nervous system
opium proves a safe and certain remedy but in
cases which have been preceded by rattlings, or
have been continued for some days without
a stool, so that a stagnation of flatus in the colon
is to be suspected, the use of opium is of doubtful
efficacy in such cases, unless a stool has been first



power of medicine, which cannot be employed but with some hazard of aggravating the disease. However, even in these circumstances of enteritis, when, without inflammation, the violence of the disease is to be suspected, when vomiting precedes the exhibition of purgatives and when with all this the pain is extremely urgent, quinon is to be employed, not only as an aperient, but also as an antispasmodic, especially to govern the operation of purgatives, and may be so employed, when either at the same time with the aperient, or not long anterior a purgative can be exhibited."

"Most all doctors agree that Resectaria is a powerful antispasmodic and in this disease, in, perhaps, when used with due discretion, the most active means we can employ, the most certain and speedy in its effects."

"Secondly, to restrain the natural or irritative action of the intestines. Purgatives are necessary of these Calomel and the mild



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introduced, as Boston Bil, Magenta, the Menthol
Salts &c are much used.

Calomel appears particularly applicable in
addition, to its removing more readily in the stomach,
it exerts a peculiar action on certain organs, it also
stimulates the capillary vessels to increased
secretion, and may in this way relieve the constipation;
it is either given alone or combined with opium. In
many cases its peculiar action on the system (which
is indicated by its alkalinity) must be exerted, before
relief is obtained.

In conjunction with these means Creamal
are equally beneficial in gouty patients, as the
first indications against we would use the mildant
as one of warm water, oil and salicy. If this were not
sufficiently active, we would add some purgatives
or use some one of those before mentioned.

Slow Irrigation to free from the severity or con-
tinuance of the disease, or the violence of pain, we
have reason to fear inflammation, we must guard
against adhesions, ulceration or gangrene, by the

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the use of the lancet, the pulse, appearance of the stool drawn, and belly obtained will guide us as to the quantity to be taken and the propriety of repeating the operation, or of applying leeches, which are often indispensible auxiliaries, after having suffered by general and local bleeding to sufficient extent, a large blister to the abdomen, will in many instances be necessary.

We have now considered each indication separately and have suggested such means of applying them as we deemed to us to be most likely to succeed. We deem it necessary, that our indications should be applied conjointly, several of the means pointed out above will meet the case at the same time, hence these are most important.

It may not be improper briefly to recapitulate our plan of treatment of a case of a patient suffering with colic, where the exciting cause has any impure article of diet and still continues to act, it should be removed by an emetic if necessary the man most frequently should

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take from tea to twenty grains of Calomel with
 one or two of Sopius and to have a Mustard poultice
 applied over the Epigastrian region without delay
 to relieve this intolerable thirst which is generally
 so distressing, and assist in quieting the stomach.
 There are nothing more generally useful than a
 hot tea made of fresh Spearmint, (Mentha Viridis)
 but this should not be taken in larger quantities
 than a Table spoonful at a time, as it will well be
 perceived. If the vomiting be allayed by this means
 a Pot of tea appears to be the best prospect of relief
 being retained, as once drunk it gives an hour
 after the Calomel. If this do not operate, repeat
 the dose every two hours, giving at the intermediate
 hour from two to six grains of Calomel. Sopius to
 be repeatedly administered at the same time.
 If the stomach cannot bear the tea, let it may be
 substituted and sometimes Camomile, but the latter
 article is so slow of effect to quiet that it is
 not often admirable; we are therefore
 frequently compelled to break the fast to Calomel



and saturated, so far as to bleed, after a
tablespoonful or eight hours, or in some violent
cases as often and as frequently as would be required
in Bleeding. Lead or Oyle freely applied over the
abdomen, as soon as the force of the circulation is
in some measure reduced, are of the greatest
service, their application to be followed by a
Blisters until complete relief had been obtained.

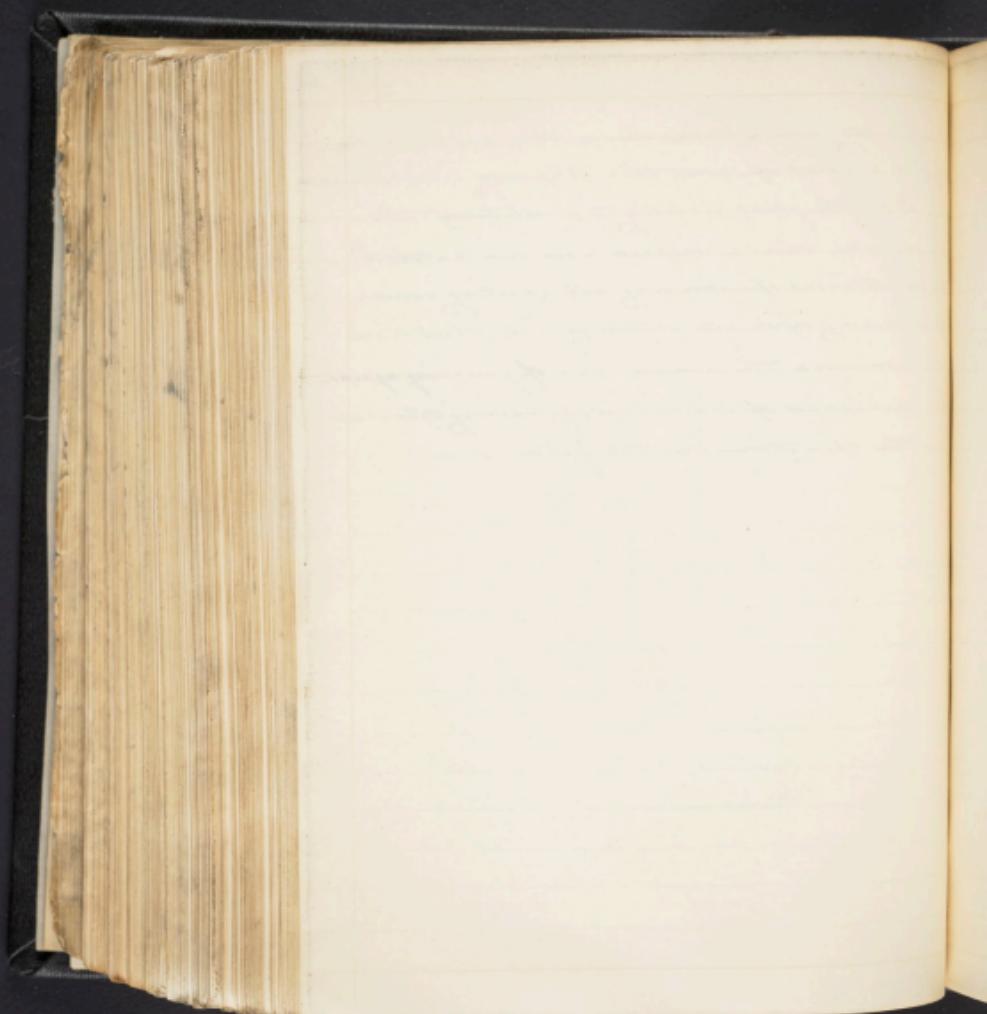
The diet should be completely attended to,
and nothing allowed which would in any way
tend to aggravate the disease. Demulcents, as
the seed rice, grain walis water, Barley water &c.
are alone proper and even these must be carefully
administered and in small quantity at a time.

By these means, promptly and judiciously
employed by night, as well as by day, relief will
be eventually obtained, at least this proved
inefficacious in the cases that an opportunity of
interfering, tho' in some very severe cases not until
stygialism was produced, this was invariably the
precursor of convalescence, the salivation.



occasionally found more severe, than was desirable,
but in case of any other temporary inconvenience,

from the great liability to a return of the
disease, we should impress upon our patients
the importance of avoiding all exciting causes,
of abstaining from all articles of diet which have
now produced the disease, and of garrisoning against
such charges of temptation by passing time
and the other things that the year.



1. A new species of

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